

Course Syllabus
West Los Angeles College
WA58 - Arts & Performance
FLM PRD202
Spring 2025

Course Catalog Description

Students will learn to use Adobe After Effects to create motion graphics with text and animation, with an emphasis on techniques practiced in the visual effects industry. Tools such as keyframes, motion paths and masks will be used to create visual effects and motion graphics projects and students will explore common workflows and job pathways in post production and visual effects.

Section Information

Section Name: 25874

Course Units and Hours

Units: 3

Hours per Week

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture (1:2) Hours	2	4
Lab/Activity/Work Experience (3:0) Hours	0	0
Lab/Activity (2:1) Hours	2	1

Transferability

Course General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability (CB05)

Transferable to CSU only

Transferability Status

Pending

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites

: None

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to recognize the major animation styles and techniques used in the entertainment industry both historically and in the present day. At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to describe how to create and adjust motion paths for animation.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Name: Jennifer Penton

Instructor Email: pentonjk@laccd.edu

Office Hours: Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Office Hours Location: Office Hours Location: ATA 212 or TLC 405, Call 310-853-2043 to

Confirm Location | Zoom ID 932 729 6385

Office Hours Modality: Office Hours Modality: In Person, Zoom, or Phone

Office Location: Office Location: ATA 212 or TLC 405

Office Extension: Office Extension: 310-853-2043

Additional Information

PLEASE NOTE: I may be able to make zoom appointments on weekends, as well. Once you have emailed me through the Canvas Inbox, I will reach out to you

to schedule an appointment and send you a Zoom link. If you have complex or detailed questions, please let me know ahead of time, so that I can be better prepared for our Zoom meeting.

College Contact Information

Campus Address: 9000 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

- **Campus Website:** <https://www.wlac.edu>

West Los Angeles College Welcome Center

- **Location:** Technology Learning Center (TLC) Building, 1st Floor (Free Parking in Lot #5)
- **Hours:** Mon to Thurs: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Fri: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- **Email:** WelcomeCenter@wla.edu | Phone: (310) 287-7251
- **Website:** <https://www.wlac.edu/student-services/welcome-center>

Course Objectives

- Describe how After Effects software is used in the visual effects and animation industries and recognize professional sequences that were created using the program.
- Recognize the major animation styles and techniques used in the entertainment industry both historically and in the present.
- Describe basic 2D and 3D animation workflows in contemporary visual effects industry, and the software used.
- Understand how the timeline works and how to create, copy and adjust keyframes.
- Understand how to use the transform properties including, anchor point, position, scale rotation and opacity to animate an image in After Effects.
- Describe how to create and adjust motion paths for animation.
- Recognize how to use easing and velocity in keyframe interpolation to control motion.
- Understand how to import Photoshop files and work with multiple layers.
- Recognize the text tool in Adobe After Effects and understand its uses.
- Understand how to use motion blur and text effects presets for text animation purposes.
- Explain how to combine video, still images, and Photoshop files into a single animation.
- Recognize how to accentuate the quality of footage, add/remove content, adjust saturation and luminosity and color.
- Understand how to use time remapping slow down and speed up time.
- Understand how to use keyframe assistants to improve project efficiency.
- Recognize how effects and motion graphics fit into the overall video production workflow.

- Recognize the various paint tools in Adobe After Effects.
- Create a new project and navigate within Adobe After Effects software.
- Use keyframe interpolation to control motion in Adobe After Effects projects.
- Apply the Text Tool to the text in their animated projects to create unique animated text sequences.
- Apply motion blur and text effects to their animated titles to enhance their effectiveness.
- Demonstrate understanding of the powerful compositing tools in Adobe After Effects by creating a single animated variety of media sources.
- Apply a variety of blending techniques to manipulate green screen footage.
- Demonstrate the ability to manipulate speed up or slow down their animated project.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of paint tools in their After Effects projects to create a unified aesthetic for a project.
- Use keyframe assistants to complete projects more efficiently.
- Demonstrate the ability to output a project in a variety of industry recognized formats for delivery.
- Demonstrate how to create, copy and manipulate keyframes for a project.
- Demonstrate the ability to use the transform properties using a simple animation project in Adobe After Effects.
- Apply and adjust motion paths to animated projects in Adobe After Effects.
- Demonstrate the ability to import title files from Photoshop and manipulate them in After Effects.

Lecture/Lab Information

This class is Asynchronous Online with no required Zoom meetings. Please email me through the Canvas Inbox if you would like to meet.

Link to Canvas Page

<https://ilearn.laccd.edu/courses/311262>

Required Course Materials

Access to Adobe After Effects CC 2025

Optional Course Books/Materials

For more Adobe After Effects access help, please see below:

1. You may purchase Adobe CC 2025 through LACCD College Buys:
<https://store.collegebuys.org/product/adobe-creative-cloud/>
2. You may also come to West Los Angeles College to our lab in TLC 405
or our library in the HLRC between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday - Thursday.

Important Course Dates

[Please see this link for important Course Dates](#)

Methods of Evaluation

ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be submitted through Canvas.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussions are a great way to get to know your classmates. For full credit, you must first post an your own response to a prompt, and then respond to at least two classmates' posts. Complete discussion forum entries consist of at least four thoughtful sentences that pertain to the discussion topic.

It is critical in the entertainment industry that you treat others with respect. You may not agree with the views and opinions expressed by your peers, but you do not have the right to be disrespectful. Personal attacks, profanity, vulgarity and comments that are not productive additions to the conversation will not be tolerated.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be delivered in Canvas and will be timed with a strict due date/time.

MIDTERM/FINAL

You will have a multiple choice Midterm and Final in this class. Both will be delivered in Canvas and will be timed with a strict due date/time. The goal of these exams is for you to keep up with the class material because it builds on itself. They are a learning tool!

LATE WORK

In this program we are helping you prepare for the entertainment industry which is notoriously unforgiving about absences and late work. However, we understand that bad things happen. In those cases, **please email us through the Canvas inbox AHEAD OF TIME if possible or afterwards if necessary**, explaining your circumstances. Being a good communicator is an extremely important skill in this industry. **You can submit late assignments AS LONG AS YOU EMAIL US AHEAD OF TIME.**

PLEASE NOTE

This class is not eligible to be taken Pass / No Pass. Please see page 315 of the [2024 - 2025 WLAC College](#) Catalog for more information.

Grading Scheme

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% or below

Grading Criteria

Participation and Communication: 30%

Assignments & Quizzes: 30%

Midterm: 20%

Final: 20 %

Instructor Expectations or Recommendations for Success

PARTICIPATION

Communication, punctuality and a positive attitude are tantamount to success in the entertainment industry. As such, a portion of your grade will be based on your active professionalism, engagement, and participation in zoom meetings and Canvas discussions.

Examples of regular participation may include:

- If you do not attend the first day of class or do not log into Canvas the first week of class, you will be dropped from the course.
- Logging into Canvas and completing assignments and quizzes.
- Active participation in Discussions.
- **You must email Jennifer Penton through the Canvas Inbox before class if you are having trouble keeping up with assignments.**

CONTACT US

Please email Jennifer Penton through the Canvas inbox. If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact us immediately so that we can support you. Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructors in class, via email, and/or during office hours.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

Please check out the button to the left called "Student Support". This is a **one stop shop** for many of the supports that are available through West LA College, including enrollment, financial aid, tutoring, counseling, health services, disabled student services, and other services.



Account



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



History



Commons



Studio



Student Support



Help

FLM PRD_106_187

Fall 2021

Home

Announcements

Zoom

Syllabus

Modules

Assignments

Discussions

Grades

People

Pages

Files

Outcomes

Quizzes

BigBlueButton (Formerly Conferences)

Attendance

NetTutor

Statement about how much work is expected or recommended outside the class for students

I recommend that you give this course your all and that you spend as much time as you can to mastering the concepts, as After Effects is really fun! Remember that I am here for you, so you can always reach out to meet with me through the Canvas Inbox to schedule a Zoom or in-person meeting.

Diversity Statement

Diversity Statement

It is the policy of the LACCD to provide an educational, employment and business environment free from all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, Ethnic Group Identification, ancestry, religion, creed, sex or gender (including sexual harassment), pregnancy, marital status, medical condition (cancer-related), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, perceived to be in a protected category or associated with those in protected category and veteran status. All programs and activities of the LACCD shall be operated in a manner which is free of discrimination. Employees, students, or other persons acting on behalf of the District who engage in any form of discrimination as defined in this policy or by state or federal law shall be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, expulsion, or termination of contract.

If you feel that you have been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment, you may report the incident to the District office by [clicking on this LACCD Non-Discrimination Policy](#) link where you can find out about how to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint at the District website for the Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

DSPS Accommodation Statement - LACCD Board Policy 5140

West is dedicated to providing equal educational opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) is here to support you as you work toward your educational goals.

DSP&S students may qualify for extra time to complete assignments and take exams, registration assistance, sign language interpreters, and assistive technology.

Email dsps@wla.edu, call 310-287-4450, or visit [DSP&S](#). The DSP&S is located at the Student Services Building, room 320

Our goal is to ensure you have the resources and support needed for a successful college experience. If you have an approved accommodation, let's discuss ASAP how to implement it to support your learning.

DSPS Contact Information

The DSP&S is located at the Student Services Building (SSB), room 320.

To contact DSP&S for an accommodation request or for more information about their services, visit the [DSP&S webpage](#), email dsps@wla.edu, or call 310-287-4450.

Student Code of Conduct - LACCD Board Policy 5500

Students at West are expected to follow local, state, and federal laws and adhere to the College's policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct contained in LACCD Board Policy 5500. Students are encouraged to share your opinions, ideas, or concerns through the appropriate channels. As members of the college community, students should act responsibly and respectfully, maintaining behavior that supports the West educational mission. Note that violations of the Student Code of Conduct, including cheating and academic dishonesty, may be referred to the Dean of Student Services for discipline.

Canvas Etiquette:

If you have not already done so, please now familiarize yourself with [Online Etiquette \(Netiquette\)](#).

IMPORTANT: A NOTE ABOUT AI, ChatGPT, AND PLAGIARISM: Please no plagiarism, no AI plagiarism. This means *no using human generated content and claiming it as your own*. You may quote sources from other people, but you must [cite your sources](#). Also, please note that using an AI generator such as ChatGPT to write an essay for you or do your homework is also plagiarism, because you are not doing the work to write your own essay or learn. You are not learning, you are not gaining critical thinking skills and this is a form of fraud. If you commit any form of plagiarism, our plagiarism and AI generator detector will catch you and you will be reported to our Administration. As plagiarism is a serious student misconduct issue, you may be expelled from the LACCD Community Colleges if you commit any form of plagiarism. We are here to help you. Please contact us through the Canvas Inbox for additional support. Please see the link to the [LACCD Board Policy 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct](#) for more information.

Attendance Policy and Drop Dates

Attendance and participation in this course is essential for you to stay enrolled and succeed. If you haven't attended or participated in the course by the end of the first week of classes, you may be dropped from the course per LACCD Administrative Procedure 5070. Additionally, you are expected to attend or participate in class regularly throughout the semester. If you don't, and you haven't talked to your instructor, you may be dropped from the class.

If you're facing challenges attending and participating in this course, please reach out to me to discuss options — I'm here to help.

Drop dates for each semester vary. Be sure to check out the [Academic Calendar](#) to learn these dates.

Incomplete Grading Policy

If unforeseen emergencies or justifiable reasons prevent you from completing coursework by the end of the term, you may be eligible for an "Incomplete" ("I") grade. This allows extra time—up to one year—to complete the required work as outlined by your instructor.

The conditions for completing the work will be documented in an Incomplete Grade Record. You will receive a copy of this report and another copy will be filed in the Admissions Office. Once the conditions for this course are completed, a final grade will replace the "I" on your transcript.

For more details or assistance, contact your instructor or the [Admissions Office](#).

Statement of Use of Cameras for Online and Hybrid Modality Courses

Students may need to use live video to share their images with their instructor or classmates to meet specific course objectives or outcomes outlined in the course syllabus. Live video interaction will only be required when no equally effective asynchronous alternative is available to demonstrate the same objective or outcome. Your instructor will clearly communicate when such requirements are necessary.

Drop Policy

We understand that dropping a course is never an easy decision, and it's not one that is made lightly. If you're considering withdrawing from a course, we strongly encourage you to [connect with a counselor](#) first—our counselors are here to provide you with guidance and support as you make your decision.

To officially withdraw from a course, you will need to drop your classes through the online [Student Information System \(SIS\)](#). Withdrawal deadlines vary depending on the semester, so be sure to check these dates for your classes on the SIS to stay informed. Keep in mind that failing to complete the withdrawal process could result in you receiving a failing grade for your course.

If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help you navigate this process!

Statement on Use of Video Recording of the Class

As per [Education Code Section 78907](#), the use by any person, including a student, of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the instructor is prohibited, except as necessary to provide reasonable auxiliary aids and academic adjustments to students with disabilities. Student requests to use a recording device should be made to the instructor in writing. Requests by students with disabilities will be approved on an individual basis, in collaboration with the instructor as appropriate, and must be discussed with a DSP&S Counselor. For more information on the rights of students approved for Audio Recording Lectures, please see the Office for Civil Rights - A & A Regarding Audio Recording.

Campus Resources & Services

Basic Needs

CE 105A | (310) 287-4487

If you are struggling with food or housing insecurity or feel unsafe due to a domestic violence situation, please contact Basic Needs. The Basic Needs Program supports students by connecting them to on & off-campus resources and community referrals. Basic Needs encompasses those very necessities to survive: Food and Shelter. They work with you holistically, through a case management model to identify your needs, whether they are for shelter, health and wellness or a stable income, then they link you to available resources to keep you going so that you can focus and continue school.

Student Physical and Mental Health

The Health Center will continue to address the medical and mental health concerns of students via Telehealth (telephone, email, and zoom) and scheduled in-person appointments.

For a medical or mental health appointments, please call [\(323\) 268-9191](tel:3232689191). Be sure to say you are a WLAC student.

For Virtual Mental Health services only use [Timely Care](#), a virtual health and well-being platform available 24/7 that is free for WLAC students. Students can go to timelycare.com/westlacollege or directly download the TimelyCare app from the app

store to register with their WLAC.edu email address. Students can then start visits from any web-enabled device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – anywhere in the United States.

[Library](#)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC)

(310) 287-4408 Circulation, (310) 287-4269 Reference

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the library. Web access and meeting rooms are available in HLRC. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study.

[Learning Center, Please see Website for Current Hours and more Information](#)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC)

(310) 287-4404 or (310) 287-4546

The Learning Center can help you with:

- Answering general questions about the college & about noncredit classes and programs
- Resetting your Student Portal (SIS) password
- The GED Test
- Printing
- **Computer and Study Room Reservations:**

A limited number of Learning Center computers are available for student use. Computers are equipped with Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, After Effects, and Premiere, AVID Media Composer, and some Computer Science software. Students may use the Learning Center computers to complete course assignments and join their Zoom classes. Additionally, a limited number of Study Room spaces are also available for student use. Students can use the study rooms to join their Zoom classes, work in a quiet space, or meet with their classmates for small study groups. Finally, the Learning Center also has study tables and small study areas available for student use.

- [Learning Center Tutoring](#)
West Los Angeles College students are provided free learning support resources and tutoring services through the Learning Center. The Learning Center offers tutoring assistance to all West students in a variety of different subjects, including, but not limited to, writing, math, science, Spanish, and computer science. Tutors are happy to assist students at any stage of their learning and/or assignment process, and tutors are trained provide student-centered tutoring. This means tutors provide a comfortable and encouraging environment for students to learn. Our tutors believe in students' abilities, building their confidence, respecting their experiences, and placing

students in an active role in the learning process. Students are encouraged to visit the Learning Center early and often throughout the semester to help build a strong foundation for success in their courses. [Please see link for more information.](#)

[Campus Sheriff's Office and Safety](#)

C3 Building, Parking Lot 5 | (310) 287-4311 & (310) 287-4314

The Sheriff's Office website includes information about drill or emergency evacuations, Title IX resources (if you have been the victim of Sexual Harassment; Sexual Violence and/or Gender-Based Discrimination), and what do to in the event of a lock-down or active shooter situation.

Technical Support Information

- Need help with Canvas? Chat with [Canvas Support](#)
- Need help with financial aid applications, student portal password resets, enrolling in classes? Contact the [Welcome Center](#)
- Need help with your computer? Email [West IT support](#)

Accessibility Statement

West instructors are committed to making their course accessible for everyone, including those with disabilities. While our learning platform and materials aim to meet high accessibility standards, some external resources may not yet fully comply. If you encounter any issues with materials or resources or need assistance, please reach out—I'm here to help and will work with you to find an alternative solution.

Statement on Reserving the Right to Make Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is intended to provide a general outline of the course and its expectations. However, I may have to make adjustments to the syllabus as necessary. These could include changes to the schedule, assignments, grading criteria, or course policies. If I do adjust the syllabus, I will let you know either through email, Canvas, or as an in-class announcement. Make sure you stay up to date about any changes I make to the syllabus.